

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 4, 2009

Department of Education
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, James Edwards, Vicki Snyder, Steve Gabet, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Daniel Elsener, Mike Pettibone, and Jo Blacketor were present. Board member David Shane was not present.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Edwards moved for approval of the minutes as corrected. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Statement of the Chair

Lance Rhodes, Chief Financial Officer, discussed the stimulus package. While most states are using this money to replace K-12 shortfalls, Indiana is fortunate that funding for education has not been cut. A large portion of the education money is tied to existing federal grants and programs. Those dollars will be distributed to local school corporations according to the formulas set forth in those programs. Mr. Rhodes said most of the money will be broken into three areas:

- Title I; approximately \$168 million.
- IDEA; approximately \$253 million for K-12 and approximately \$9 million for Pre-K.
- State fiscal stabilization fund: approximately \$820 million of this fund is earmarked for K-12 Education.

Mr. Rhodes said money is available for school corporation formula driven programs (such as Title I and IDEA) and competitive grants. Indiana is waiting for information to be released the US DOE to determine how much each corporation will receive. The USDOE will also issue specific uses of the money.

Dr. Bennett said the department welcomes any questions, and, as more information is received, the department will make it available as soon as possible on the www.doe.in.gov/stimulus web site.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Dr. Bennett introduced Dr. David Dresslar, Executive Director, Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL). Dr. Dresslar introduced the “Spotlight on Learning” that recognizes exceptional educators and education programs. The following schools received the award:

- Marcus Robinson, Executive Director, Charles A. Tindley.
- Dr. Scott Syverson, Executive Director, Lawrence Early College High School.
- Sheryl Garrett, Principal, Ben Davis University High School.
- Dan Ronk, Principal, Zebra New Tech High.
- Scott Defreese, Principal, New Tech High School.
- Tom Wachnicki, Principal, New Tech IDEAS.

Dr. Dresslaer said Indiana currently has three early college high schools and 17 more are in various stages of development. Dr. Dresslaer also discussed the inception of the New Tech model that has expanded to 40 schools in nine states, including six located in Indiana.

Dr. Bennett said “early college high schools have the potential to improve high school graduation rates and better prepare students for high-skilled careers.” Dr. Bennett also stated that Indiana is moving to expand the learning opportunities for our students, and the New Tech concept is high on the DOE priority list as a proven alternative approach.

V. Board Member Comments

Dr. Bennett said he was very happy to announce that Dr. Carol D’Amico will join the DOE as an education consultant.

Dr. D'Amico is a nationally renowned expert in the areas of career, technical and adult education. Dr. D'Amico is also a former Assistant Secretary for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education at the U. S. Department of Education. She has served as the Executive Vice President at Ivy Tech and as a policy advisor to H. Dean Evans, former Superintendent of Public Instruction.

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

VII. Public Comments

Public comments were provided by the following individuals:

- Suzanne Crouch, Physical Educator.
- Gaylon Nettles, Law Firm of Gaylon Nettles.
- Molly Hare, IAHPERD.
- Erik Godsey, Anderson University.
- Rebecca Hull, Anderson University.
- Jewel Lehman, Goshen College.
- Mary Beth Myers, Anderson Highland High School.
- Lisa Miniar, Franklin Central High School.
- Audrey Herblom, IPS.
- Judi Turpen, Indiana Federation of Families Children's Mental Health and Self.
- K. Andrew Richards, Purdue University.

VIII. Discussion

Wesley Bruce, Assistant Superintendent, discussed assessment and accountability. Mr. Bruce said the ISTEP+ testing window began on March 2 and will end March 11. So far things are going well, and all testing materials were received by school corporations. The Graduation Qualifying Examination will be given on March 9-11, 2009. Mr. Bruce discussed a number of changes associated with the spring test, particularly changes in the mathematics test that are getting a lot of attention. While many comments are coming in regarding the difficulty of the math items, Mr. Bruce stated that the test themselves are developed by Indiana educators. Test items go through a review process that includes teachers at each grade level and content area. Schools were notified which standards would be addressed on the open-ended portion of ISTEP some time ago. The DOE also held 12 workshops for educators across the state and has been in constant communication with test coordinators in every school district.

Mr. Bruce said the items and the test have not yet been scored. This is a new test, and we will examine the performance of students on the questions. Because the items were harder, there is concern that more students will fail the test; however, cut scores have not been set yet. Indiana teachers will use the performance of students to determine the cut scores recommendations that will eventually come back to this Board.

Mr. Bruce gave an update on accountability issues and said the DOE has submitted a proposal to Washington on how we propose to use the 2009 spring test scores.

Jeffery P. Zaring, State Board of Education Administrator, discussed end of course tests and the issue that has surfaced for students who take Algebra I in non-accredited schools and then transfer to accredited high schools that award Algebra I credit. The non-accredited schools do not have access to the Algebra I test since they do not administer state tests. As an interim solution, the DOE has asked the "feeder" high school to test the Algebra I students from these non-accredited schools. The DOE is working on procedures to clearly identify these students and ensure that all students who will be held to our graduation requirements have fair access to the end of course graduation tests.

Mr. Zaring gave a legislative update. Board members have an updated bill list, and, as we get closer to the end of the General Assembly, we will start giving Board members weekly summaries.

Mr. Zaring discussed strategic planning and said we have taken the balanced score card developed by the Board, the management plan that was developed for the Department by Crowe Chizek, and other documents and have put them together in a comprehensive strategic plan for everyone to work on. The next step is to put measures in place.

Mr. Zaring discussed construction guidelines and said a meeting was held with Dr. Bennett, construction managers and superintendents. The process that was recommended in the meeting was similar to what the Department of Local Government Finance has been using for submissions and review. The process will look at a preliminary analysis of what the school corporation wants to do based on a feasibility study and demographics, as well as a final review. Another meeting will be scheduled.

Mr. Zaring discussed deregulation issues and said the Education Service Centers asked to have a couple of weeks to look over those rules. Rules are

being drafted, and we will proceed with the rule making process as soon as we can. More information will be available at the April Board meeting.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of adoption of final orders where no objections have been filed to the recommended order of the hearing officer. [Agenda item VI, A]
- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a Freeway School renewal for Lafayette Christian School. [Agenda item X, A]
- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a Freeway School amendment to the current petition for Yeshiva of South Bend. [Agenda item X, B]

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of administrative policies for the common school fund.

Mr. Gabet moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of rule making process for amendments to Special Education rules dealing with due process hearing appeals and contracts for services.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board Operations

Mr. Gabet moved for adjournment. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

